



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

48 Devonshire Road ☐ Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 ☐ (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 664-0689

September 13, 2013

To Interested Parties:

This letter is to inform you of scheduled commercial salmon gillnet fishery in Grays Harbor. A summary of the season requirements are presented below, a full schedule and requirements is attached.

The fishery will begin October 10, 2013. To participate in this fishery, Notice of Intent is required by October 4, 2013, follow requirement outlined in the attached summary. Please note that for this opening **tangle net gear is required**. The maximum mesh size allowed is 4 ¼-inches with strings/slackers required extending no longer than 28 feet from cork line to lead line. The open area includes all of Area 2A and that portion of Area 2D is restricted to a north-south line from the confluence of the Hoquiam (N 46.96978, W 123.88022) and Chehalis rivers to Renney Island then easterly to Range Marker 'G' then to the eastern boundary at Highway 101 Bridge.

For the remainder of the season in Areas 2A and 2D, **gillnet gear is required**. Maximum mesh size allowed is 6 ½-inches, no more than 55 meshes deep.

When Areas 2A and 2D are open to commercial fishing retention of all species other than coho, chum, hatchery Chinook and legal-sized white sturgeon is prohibited. Because wild Chinook must be released soak times are limited to a maximum of 45 minutes and live boxes are required. ALL wild (unmarked) Chinook are **required to be released**; wild Chinook that are bleeding and/or lethargic must be placed in an operating live box until they have recovered.

Area 2C will open November 1, 2013. Gillnet gear is required. The maximum mesh size allowed is 8 ½-inches. Retention of all species other than Chinook, coho, chum, and legal-sized white sturgeon is prohibited. With no release/recovery box require for salmon in 2C, there are no soak time limits.

Fishers in Grays Harbor must carry an on-board observer, if requested by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). It is also **required** that all operators of commercial salmon vessels planning to fish in Willapa Bay must complete a "Fish Friendly" workshop and have in their possession a WDFW-issued certification card to participate in salmon openings. Operators who do not currently hold a "Fish Friendly" certification card need to contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-1213 at the Region 6 Montesano office to sign up and make arrangements to attend a class.

Fishers are REQUIRED to report encounters of green sturgeon. The date and number of green sturgeon encountered can be reported to the buyer or directly to WDFW through the Quick Report system. Wholesale dealer should use the "buyer only" portion of the fish ticket (list the number of green sturgeon encountered and in the pounds/price columns, label as 'encountered'). Encounters must be reported with each day's Quick Reporting. Direct reporting by fishers shall include name of the fisher and vessel #, date, catch area, and number of green sturgeon encountered.

Wholesale dealers and fishers retailing their fish should note that “Quick Reporting” is **required**; this includes all “take home”. All purchases are required to be reported to WDFW by 10:00 A.M. of the day following the commercial landing. **The quick reporting requirement does not preclude the obligation of buyers to report catches on fish tickets.** A copy of the “Statewide Quick Reporting Summary Sheet” can be downloaded on our website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/>.

These regulations are subject to change based on in-season information. You are advised to call the Department of Fish and Wildlife hotline at (360) 902-2500 or (360) 249-4628 before going fishing to verify fishery schedules and regulations. To view a copy of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for this fishery you can go to our website at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/salmon/netting_schedules.html. For additional information or questions, please contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-1213 at the Region 6 Montesano office.

Encounters of sturgeon with tags of any sort should also be reported. If tags from legally retained white sturgeon can be removed before sale, please mail them to the address at the top of the page. **DO NOT REMOVE** tags from sturgeon not legal to retain, if any information from can be retrieved please do so and submit that information to the quick report system.

Atlantic Salmon

Wholesale dealers and fishers are asked to contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should Atlantic salmon be taken during any fishery in Washington waters. Please notify the appropriate WDFW staff member of when and where the fish was encountered or contact Fish Program in Olympia at (360) 902-2700.